

Message

From: McKim, Krista [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=AEBEEF6C80E141A29AA2BDDDD7329121-KMCKIM]
Sent: 4/13/2015 8:14:25 PM
To: Wester, Barbara [wester.barbara@epa.gov]; Pierard, Kevin [pierard.kevin@epa.gov]
CC: Kuefler, Patrick [kuefler.patrick@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: NorthMet: EPA Issue nbr 2 for resolution

I wrote back to Lisa that I'm available all week...

But see the new language below that was presented at a meeting last Thursday. Other than wondering why PFEIS language would contain a sentence that starts with "The FEIS will state...", the language reads like there will be a stand-alone SDS permit, which we heard a few weeks ago that the only permit would be an NPDES/SDS.

From: Fay, Lisa (DNR) [mailto:lisa.fay@state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 1:23 PM
To: McKim, Krista
Cc: Clark, Richard (MPCA); Woldeab, Irina (DNR); Johnson, Bill H (DNR); Doneen, Randall (DNR); Sedlacek, Michael
Subject: NorthMet: EPA Issue nbr 2 for resolution

Hello Krista.

I am following up with you about a topic that came up during last Thursday's issue resolution meeting on the NorthMet EIS regarding the tailings basin containment system and EPA Issue #2. You may have already seen the PFEIS text that was discussed, but I am sending it to you now (see below) in the hope that you and Richard Clark at MPCA would have a chance to talk about it prior to our resolution meeting this Thursday. We are hopeful the text could be agreed upon prior to the meeting such that this issue could be closed out.

EPA Issue #2: During active mining and post-closure, water quality standard exceedances will be prevented through on-site treatment or other measures, before discharge to waters of the U.S. --SDS approach to monitoring

PFEIS Text:

Containment systems would continue to operate, although seepage rates would be progressively reduced. The collected seepage would be pumped to the WWTP. During this period, the WWTP effluent would be used for both West Pit flooding and stream augmentation (PolyMet 2015a). The WWTP and the containment system would be periodically inspected to ensure continuing integrity. Monitoring of piezometers or other similar devices would continue for the purpose of assessing the continued effectiveness of the containment system and to inform appropriate mitigation and/or permitting of any potential bypass of seepage. The FEIS will state that the SDS permit covering the containment system would prohibit a point source water discharge from the containment system that adds pollutants to waters of the U.S. ~~Tailings seepage bypassing the containment system would continue to enter the north, northwest, and west surficial flowpaths, and migrate slowly toward the Embarrass River.~~

Richard has sporadic availability over the next few days, and will be off-site at a conference part of the time, but he would be able to call you at some point. Will you please reply with the phone number you would be available at tomorrow and Wednesday? If you would like to try to reach him today, his number is 651-757-2280.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this as we work to resolve the few items that remain outstanding. If you need additional information for context, please let me know.

Kind regards,
Lisa

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